

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03710 122135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 OPR-02
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
USIE-00 A-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 /055 W
-----066026 122146Z /66

O 122105Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3710

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CO, ASEC, AFOP
SUBJECT: CLOSING OF MISSION DUE TO GENERAL STRIKE

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GENERAL STRIKE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE FOR 24 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY SECURITY POLICE, NATIONAL POLICE AND LOCAL MILITARY COMMAND TO CLOSE THE MISSION ON THAT DAY BECAUSE OF HIGH POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL BE HALTED AND PRIVATE CARS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DIPLOMATIC AND SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES, WILL RUN VERY HIGH RISK OF BEING ATTACKED IN THE STREETS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE RISK BY THE MISSION'S SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE, WE

HAVE DECIDED TO CLOSE MISSION INSTALLATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 14 IN BOGOTA AS WELL AS OUR CONSULATES IN CALI, BARRANQUILLA AND MEDELLIN PLUS THE BINATIONAL CENTERS. WE WILL BE NOTIFYING THE FOREIGN

MINISTRY AS WELL AS LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN OTHER CITIES WHERE WE HAVE INSTALLATION THAT THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AS A RESULT OF ADVICE RECEIVED FROM COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SAFETY.

2. BECAUSE OF THE CLOSING OF THE MISSION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE CABLE TRAFFIC ONLY OF NIACT IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE OR
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HIGHER FOR THAT 24-HOUR PERIOD.

3. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15 BUT THIS WILL DEPEND UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL SITUATION EARLY THAT DAY.

4. CHARGE HAS DELEGATED TO COMMANDER US MILGROUP HERE DECISION

WHETHER TO MAINTAIN OR SUSPEND MILGROUP'S OFFICE OPERATIONS
ON SEPTEMBER 14. MILGROUP IS LOCATED AT DEFENSE MINISTRY,
WHOSE COLOMBIAN PERSONNEL HAVE ALL BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT TO DUTY.
MILGROUP COMMANDER WILL MAKE HIS DECISION AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CHIEF

OF JOINT STAFF, GENERAL MATALLANA.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Subject: CLOSING OF MISSION DUE TO GENERAL STRIKE
TAGS: ASEC, AFOP, CO
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